UNITED
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A/C.3/46/L.1
24 September 1991

ORICINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
THIRD COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretariat

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee are listed in the letter dated 20 September 1991 from the President of the Assembly to the Chairman of the Third Committee (A/C.3/46/1). Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (A/46/100 and Add.1*). A list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Third Committee is set out in an addendum to the present document (A/C.3/46/L.1/Add.1).

2. The suggested programme of work annexed to the present document has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, General Assembly resolution 45/175 of 18 December 1990 on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly, the organizational arrangements agreed upon by the Assembly at the outset of its current session (A/46/250) and the availability of documentation, as well as past experience in the utilization of conference services.

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* To be issued.

Annex

ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, APPROXIMATE DATES FOR CONSIDERATION, DEADLINE FOR CLOSURE OF LIST OF SPEAKERS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

	Agenda item	Approximate dates for consideration	Deadline for closure of list of speakers	Deadline for submission of draft proposals
1.	Items 92 and 93 Elimination of racism and racial discrimination Right of peoples to self-determination	7-15 October	Tuesday, 8 October, at noon	Tuesday, 15 October, at 3 p.m.
2.	Item 95 Advancement of women	16-22 October	Thursday, 17 October, at noon	Tuesday, 22 October, at 3 p.m.
3.	Item 94 (a) Social development: Questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family	23-29 October	Thursday, 24 October at noon	Tuesday, 29 October, at 3 p.m.
4.	Item 96 Narcotic drugs	30 October-4 November	Wednesday, 30 October, at 6 p.m.	Monday, 4 November, at 3 p.m.
5.	Item 12 Report of the Economic and Social Council	5 November	Tuesday, 5 November, at noon	Tuesday 5 November, at 6 p.m.

	Agenda item	Approximate dates for consideration	Deadline for closure of list of speakers	Deadline for submission of draft proposals
6.	Item 97 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions	6-11 November	Wednesday, 6 November, at 6 p.m.	Monday, 11 November, at 3 p.m.
7.	Item 98			
	Human rights questions	12-27 November a/	Wednesday, 13 November, at noon	(a) All items pending with programme budget implications: Friday, 22 November, at 3 p.m.
	98 (a) Implementation of human rights instruments	12-18 November		(b) All items pending without programme budget implications: Tuesday, 26 November, at 3 p.m.
	98 (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms 98 (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives	19-27 November		

a/ 28 November is Thanksgiving Day holiday.

	Agenda item	Approximate dates for consideration	Deadline for closure of list of speakers	Deadline for submission of draft proposals
8.	Item 94 (b) Social development: Crime prevention and criminal justice	9-10 December	Monday, 9 December, at noon	Tuesday, 10 December, at 3 p.m.

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Addendum

State of preparation of documentation

Note by the Secretariat

1. The annex to the present note provides information on the status, at 23 September 1991, of the documentation before the Third Committee.

2. The estimated date of submission of each document to the Division of General Assembly Affairs has been provided by the department or office responsible for its preparation.

Annex

STATUS OF DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRD COMMITTEE AT 23 SEPTEMBER 1991

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
12	Report of the Economic and Social Council			
	Report of the Council (A/46/3)	OPGS	12 September	7 October
92	Elimination of racism and racial discrimination			
	Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/46/18)	HR	10 September	
	Reports of the Secretary-General			
	Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/46/...)	HR		
	Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (A/46/391)	HR	29 August	3 October
	Note by the Secretary-General: Implementation of the programme of action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/46/465 and E/1991/39)	HR		Issued
	Note verbale dated 6 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/166-E/1991/71)			Issued

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Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 92 continued)				
	Letter dated 20 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/183)			Issued
	Note verbale dated 21 May 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/184-E/1991/81)			Issued
93	Right of peoples to self-determination			
	Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/...)	HR		
	Note by the Secretary-General: Preliminary report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries (A/46/459)	HR	12 September	7 October
	Note verbale dated 6 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/166-E/1991/71)			Issued
	Note verbale dated 21 May 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/184-E/1991/81)			Issued
	Letter dated 9 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/294)			Issued

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 93 continued)				
	Note verbale dated 15 July 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/304-S/22796)			Issued
94	Social development			
	(a) Questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family			
	Reports of the Secretary-General:			
	(i) Interim report on the world social situation (A/46/56-E/1991/6 and Corr.1)	DIESA		Issued
	(ii) Social indicators (A/46/137-E/1991/40)	DIESA		Issued
	(iii) International Literacy Year (A/46/281-E/1991/112)	DIEC		Issued
	(iv) Draft world youth programme of action to the year 2000 and beyond (A/46/360)	CSDHA		Issued
	(v) Implementation of International Plan of Action on Ageing (A/46/361)	CSDHA	14 August	27 September
	(vi) International Year of the Family (A/46/362 and Corr.1)	CSDHA	14 August	3 October
	(vii) World action concerning disabled persons (A/46/366)	CSDHA	14 August	3 October

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 94 continued)				
	(viii) Implementation of Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies (A/46/414)	CSDHA	4 September	
	Note verbale dated 17 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/315)			Issued
	(b) Crime prevention and criminal justice			
	Reports of the Secretary-General:			
	(i) Implementation of the resolution of the Eighth United Nations Congress on Crime (A/46/363)	CSDHA	14 August	3 October
	(ii) United Nations African Institute for Crime Prevention (A/46/...)	AM		
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the conclusions and recommendations of the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (A/46/...)		(25 November)	
95	Advancement of women			
	Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/46/38)	CSDHA		Issued

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 95 continued)				
	Reports of the Secretary-General:			
	(a) International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/46/325)	INSTRAW	29 July	4 October
	(b) Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/46/377)	OHRM		
	(c) Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategy for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 (A/46/439)	CSDHA	6 September	
	(d) Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (A/46/462)	CSDHA	12 September	
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/46/...)	UNDP		
	Letter dated 2 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/77-E/1991/13)			Issued
96	Narcotic drugs			
	Reports of the Secretary-General:			
	(a) International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking (A/46/338)	UNIDCP		Issued

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 96 continued)				
	(b) Enhancement of United Nations structure (A/46/480)	UNIDCP		
	(c) Global Programme of Action (A/46/...)	UNIDCP		
	Letter dated 31 May 1991 from the representatives of Peru and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/222)			Issued
	Letter dated 14 June 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/264)			Issued
	Letter dated 1 August 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/336)			Issued
97	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees			
	Report of the High Commissioner (A/46/12)	UNHCR	20 September	
	Addendum on the fortieth session of the Executive Committee (A/46/12/Add.1)	UNHCR	(end October)	

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 97 continued)				
	Reports of the Secretary-General:			
	(a) Assistance to refugees, returnees, and displaced persons in southern Africa (A/46/371)	SPQRCDT	19 August	4 October
	(b) Humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti (A/46/428)	UNHCR	6 September	3 October
	(c) Emergency assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad (A/46/429)	UNHCR	3 September	3 October
	(d) Assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia (A/46/430)	UNHCR	6 September	3 October
	(e) Assistance to refugees in the Sudan (A/46/431)	UNHCR	6 September	3 October
	(f) Emergency assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons (A/46/432)	UNHCR	6 September	3 October
	(g) Assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi (A/46/433)	UNHCR	6 September	3 October
	(h) Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa (A/46/434)	UNHCR	6 September	3 October
	(i) Plight of Central American refugees (A/46/435)	UNHCR	6 September	4 October

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 97 continued)				
	(j) Assistance to refugees in Somalia (A/46/471)	SPQRCDT	13 September	15 October
	(k) Humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons (A/46/...)	UNHCR		
	Note by the Secretary-General: The coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows (A/46/134)	UNHCR		Issued
	Letter dated 11 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/139)			Issued
98	Human rights questions			
	(a) Implementation of human rights instruments			
	Report of the Human Rights Committee (A/46/40)	HR	28 August	
	Report of the Committee against Torture (A/46/46)	HR		Issued
	Report of the Preparatory Committee on the World Conference on Human Rights (A/46/24)	HR		

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 98 continued)				
	Reports of the Secretary-General:			
	(i) Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/46/392)	HR		Issued
	(ii) Status of the Covenants (A/46/393)	HR	29 August	
	(iii) Status of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/46/394)	HR		Issued
	(iv) Implementation status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/46/395)	HR		Issued
	(v) United Nations Voluntary Fund on Torture (A/46/...)	HR	(30 September)	
	(vi) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (A/46/...)	HR		
	Note by the Secretary-General: report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/46/490)	HR	23 September	4 October

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Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 98 continued)				
	(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms			
	(i) Notes by the Secretary-General: Transmitting his report to the Commission on National Institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (A/46/420-E/CN.4/1991/23 and Add.1)	HR	4 September	26 September
	(ii) Transmitting the Draft Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and for the Improvement of Mental Health (A/46/421)	HR	4 September	17 October
	(iii) Transmitting his report to the Commission on the Right to Development (A/46/...)	HR		
	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance	HR	No advance documentation	
	Reports of the Secretary-General:			
	(i) Human rights in the administration of justice (A/46/422-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/26)	HR	4 September	3 October
	(ii) Torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention in South Africa (A/46/473)	HR	16 September	10 October
	(iii) Human rights and mass exoduses (A/46/...)	HR		

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 98 continued)				
	(iv) Draft programme of activities for the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples (A/46/...)	HR		
	(v) Developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights (A/46/...)	HR		
	(vi) Enhancing the effectiveness of the principles of periodic and genuine elections (A/46/...)	ORCI		
	(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives			
	(i) Southern Lebanon (A/46/446)	HR	6 September	27 September
	(ii) In Kuwait under Iraqi occupation (A/46/...)	HR		
	(iii) Iraq (A/46/...)	HR		
	(iv) El Salvador (A/46/...)	HR		
	(v) Afghanistan (A/46/...)	HR		
	Report of the Secretary-General: Situation of human rights in South Africa (A/46/401)	HR	30 August	7 October
	Letter dated 14 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/67)			Issued

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 98 continued)				
	Letter dated 17 January 1991 from the Permanent Repesentative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/70)			Issued
	Letter dated 19 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/71-E/1991/9)			Issued
	Letter dated 24 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/72)			Issued
	Letter dated 5 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/81)			Issued
	Letter dated 8 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/83)			Issued
	Note verbale dated 12 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Suriname to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/85)			Issued

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 98 continued)				
	Letter dated 26 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/95)			Issued
	Letter dated 27 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/96)			Issued
	Letter dated 28 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/99)			Issued
	Letter dated 25 March 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/121)			Issued
	Letter dated 8 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/135)			Issued
	Note verbale dated 6 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/166-E/1991/71)			Issued

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 98 continued)				
	Letter dated 20 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/183)			Issued
	Note verbale dated 21 May 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/184-E/1991/81)			Issued
	Letter dated 29 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/205)			Issued
	Letter dated 28 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/210)			Issued
	Letter dated 5 June 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/226)			Issued
	Letter dated 26 June 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/273) .			Issued

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 98 continued)				
	Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/290)			Issued
	Letter dated 7 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/292-S/22769)			Issued
	Letter dated 9 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/294)			Issued
	Note verbale dated 15 July 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/304-S/22796)			Issued
	Letter dated 23 July 1991 from the representatives of Germany and Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/322)			Issued
	Letter dated 30 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/331)			Issued

Item No.	Title or description and symbol of document	Submitting department or office	Actual (estimated) date of submission to the Division of General Assembly Affairs	Projected date of issue
(Item 98 continued)				
	Letter dated 30 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/332)			Issued
	Letter dated 5 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/367)			Issued
	Letter dated 29 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/402)			Issued
	Letter dated 5 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/424)			Issued

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30 September 1991

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Forty-sixth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 98 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Note by the Secretariat

In its decision 45/432 of 18 December 1990, the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Third Committee (A/45/766, para. 22) decided to defer until its forty-sixth session consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Respect for the will of the people of Myanmar" (A/C.3/45/L.58). The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Respect for the will of the people of Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenants on Human Rights, 2/

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Noting that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives, that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government and that this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Noting also that elections were held on 27 May 1990 in Myanmar,

Regretting that the new national assembly reflecting the results of these elections has not been convened and that a number of politically active persons have been detained,

1. Expresses its concern that the will of the people of Myanmar, as manifested in the elections held on 27 May 1990, has not been implemented;

2. Stresses its conviction in this context that all citizens detained with respect to their political activities ought to be released immediately and restored to the full enjoyment of their right to participate in the government of their country;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution in all its aspects.

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30 September 1991

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Forty-sixth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 98 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Note by the Secretariat

In its decision 45/434 of 18 December 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee (A/45/838, para. 110), inter alia, decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Non-discrimination and protection of minorities" (A/C.3/45/L.83) until its forty-sixth session. The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution

Non-discrimination and protection of minorities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that one of the main purposes of the United Nations, as proclaimed in its Charter, is to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Inspired by the provisions of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1/ concerning the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

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1/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Mindful of the work done so far within the United Nations system, in particular by the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as other regional intergovernmental forums and the bodies established pursuant to the relevant international instruments in this field,

Bearing in mind that the culture, ways of life and traditions of such minorities form an integral part of civilization and world culture, and that their identity should be protected,

Considering that respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities is an important factor in the realization of human rights, and in peace, justice, stability and democracy,

Mindful also that persons belonging to minorities can exercise and enjoy their rights individually as well as in community with other members of their group, and that no disadvantage may arise for a person belonging to a minority on account of the exercise or non-exercise of any such rights,

Convinced that questions relating to minorities can only be satisfactorily resolved in a democratic political framework based on the rule of law with a functioning independent judiciary, since this framework is a condition for guaranteeing full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and equality before the law,

Conscious of the particular importance of increasing constructive cooperation among States on questions relating to minorities aimed at facilitating mutual understanding and confidence, friendly and good-neighbourly relations, international peace, security and justice,

Recognizing the need to ensure for all, without discrimination of any kind, full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to this end to accomplish the elaboration of the draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Noting that commitments related to the protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities may not be interpreted as implying any right to engage in any activity or perform any action in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter or other obligations under international law, including the principle of territorial integrity of States,

1. Appeals to States to respect the right of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms fully and effectively, without any discrimination and in full equality with other citizens before the law, and to adopt, where necessary, special measures for this purpose;

2. Calls upon States to take the necessary measures, in accordance with the decision-making procedure of each State, to protect the identity of national or ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious minorities where they exist, and to maintain and where necessary to create conditions for the enjoyment of their identity without discrimination with respect to other citizens;

3. Invites States to respect the right of persons belonging to minorities to participate effectively in public affairs, including in decisions relating to the protection of the identity of such minorities;

4. Stresses that the guarantee and exercise of the rights of minorities will contribute to the respect of the territorial integrity of States, promote economic, social and cultural development and enhance the stability of the States in which they live;

5. Also calls upon States to cooperate closely in finding peaceful and constructive solutions to problems related to minorities, and in so doing to act in accordance with international law and existing international agreements;

6. Welcomes the completion by the open-ended working group within the Commission on Human Rights of the first reading of the full text of draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and encouraged the Commission to complete the final text as soon as possible and to transmit it to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

7. Welcomes also Economic and Social Council decision 1990/238 approving the request by the Commission on Human Rights that the Secretary-General extend all possible assistance to the open-ended working group which may be needed in its further work on the draft declaration;

8. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its forty-sixth session under the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

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30 September 1991

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Forty-sixth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 94 (a)

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Note by the Secretariat

In its resolution 1991/7 of 30 May 1991, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action in the field of social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, in which it endorsed the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future 1/ and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of, and follow-up action to, the Guiding Principles,

Reaffirming the continued importance and value of strategies and plans of action in different social policy areas directly related to the Guiding Principles, notably those concerning the status of women, the ageing, youth and disabled persons, as well as crime prevention and drug abuse, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2/ the International Covenant on

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1/ E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

2/ Resolution 217 A (III).

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 3/ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 3/ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 4/

Recalling its resolution 44/65 of 8 December 1989, in which it decided, inter alia, that social issues as conceived in the Guiding Principles should become a major part of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

Stressing the validity of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/48 of 28 May 1987, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to redeploy resources to ensure appropriate follow-up action to the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes,

Concerned about the lack of appropriate follow-up action to the comprehensive programme of the Guiding Principles in the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia,

1. Reaffirms the validity of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future as a major framework for action at the local, national, regional and international levels in the field of social welfare and development;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups; 5/

3. Stresses the interrelationship between economic growth and human welfare as one of the principal themes of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade; 6/

4. Appeals to Governments to make use of the Guiding Principles and to apply their recommendations, as appropriate and in accordance with their national structures, needs and objectives, to inform the Secretary-General of problems in their implementation and to accelerate the follow-up action to the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes;

3/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

4/ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

5/ E/CN.5/1991/3 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.

6/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

5. Welcomes the inclusion of the implementation of the Guiding Principles in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 7/ and the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 8/ as requested in its resolution 44/65;

6. Urges the Secretary-General and the organizations of the United Nations system concerned to continue to include the implementation of the Guiding Principles in their programmes of work and to assist Governments, particularly those of the developing countries, in formulating appropriate social welfare policies in setting up effective programmes according to their needs;

7. Urges the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to give adequate attention to the recommendations for action at the regional level contained in the Guiding Principles;

8. Stresses the role of non-governmental and voluntary organizations in the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Guiding Principles, particularly in social crisis management, as reflected in the proceedings of the international expert meeting on the role of voluntary organizations in crisis management: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, drug abuse and mass migration as cases in point, held at Berlin from 18 to 22 November 1990;

9. Urges Member States in all regions to initiate regional expert group meetings devoted to issues raised in the Guiding Principles and to translate their recommendations into specific social policy activities;

10. Welcomes the idea of holding regional conferences, for example, the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs within the European Region, to be held in Czechoslovakia in 1992, and the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, to be held in the Philippines in October 1991;

11. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To strengthen the follow-up action to the Interregional Consultation by, inter alia, appropriately reflecting the Guiding Principles in global programmes and events, including the preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family; 9/

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. II, prog. 25.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

9/ See resolution 44/82.

(b) To strengthen advisory services to Governments, especially those of developing countries, focusing on the policy, institution-building capacity, planning, administration and training aspects of developmental social welfare;

(c) To ensure that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Guiding Principles, is provided with sufficient resources, without incurring additional expenses, through the regular budget of the United Nations, for an effective follow-up to the Interregional Consultation;

(d) To reflect appropriately resource and programme requirements for monitoring the implementation of the Guiding Principles in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the progress achieved in the implementation of and follow-up action to the Guiding Principles and the present resolution;

12. Decides to consider the question of the implementation of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future at its forty-eighth session under the item entitled "Social development".

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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Note by the Secretariat

In its resolution 1991/10 of 30 May 1991, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and related activities

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/50 of 24 May 1989, in which the Council endorsed a draft programme of United Nations activities relating to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, in 1992,

Pursuant to its resolution 45/106 of 14 December 1990, in which it endorsed the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the question of ageing, 1/ invited Member States, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to consider innovative and effective ways of cooperating on the selection of targets in the field of ageing during 1991 and 1992, and urged Member States, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental

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1/ A/45/420.

and non-governmental organizations concerned to participate in the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, especially in selecting targets in the field of ageing, in organizing community-wide activities and in launching an information and fund-raising campaign to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing at the local, national, regional and global levels,

Recalling that in resolution 45/106 it endorsed the convening of an ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session to monitor the activities for the tenth anniversary, especially the launching of a global information campaign, and the selection of targets that might form the basis of the third review and appraisal of the Plan of Action to be made by the Commission at its thirty-third session, in 1993, and recommended that the Commission give consideration to the desirability of convening, subject to the availability of funds, regional and sectoral meetings on the selection of targets on ageing during 1991 and 1992 and global consultations in 1993 and 1997,

Also recalling that, in resolution 45/106, it recognized the complexity and rapidity of the ageing of the world's population and the need to have a common basis and frame of reference for the protection and promotion of the rights of the elderly, including the contribution that the elderly can and should make to society,

Aware of the plight of the elderly in developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, as well as those in difficult circumstances, such as refugees, migrant workers and victims of conflict,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1751 (LIV) of 16 May 1973 on the aged and social security,

1. Recommends that the United Nations define, on the basis of the recommendations of a small expert group meeting to be held in 1991 within existing resources, targets on ageing to provide a pragmatic focus for the broad and ideal goals of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, and issue them as "Targets on ageing: programme recommendations at the national level for the year 2001";

2. Urges Member States to identify their specific national targets on ageing for the year 2001, on the basis of the proposed targets on ageing;

3. Invites the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with United Nations organizations and bodies and international non-governmental organizations, a set of suggested global targets designed to support implementation of the national targets on ageing;

4. Recommends that the General Assembly devote four plenary meetings, that is, two working days, at its forty-seventh session to an international conference on ageing to consolidate a set of targets on ageing for the year

2001 and to celebrate on an appropriate global scale the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

5. Urges the United Nations to give special attention to implementing the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond;

6. Calls upon the Secretary-General to give all possible support, in the form of both regular and extrabudgetary resources, to the Ageing Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, to enable it to fulfil its mandate as lead agency for the action programme on ageing;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to designate the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna as coordinator for the preparation of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and for the implementation of the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond;

8. Invites the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility of appointing an interregional adviser on ageing to assist developing countries in expanding their ability to respond effectively to the ageing of their populations;

9. Invites the United Nations to examine the feasibility of launching a service composed of experts who are elderly, modelled on the United Nations Volunteers;

10. Urges the United Nations Postal Administration, as called upon in General Assembly resolution 44/67 of 8 December 1989, to issue a stamp to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

11. Urges the United Nations to consider, on an exceptional basis, issuing a medal on ageing bearing the emblem of the World Assembly on Ageing to mark activities planned for the decade 1992-2001;

12. Decides to launch a global information campaign on the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, and welcomes the cooperation of the Department of Public Information and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in this endeavour;

13. Recommends that the United Nations provide further advisory services to countries in the process of development, change and transition, at their request, to ensure that the issue of ageing remains an important part of their social development programmes;

14. Adopts the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing, annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

UNITED NATIONS PRINCIPLES FOR OLDER PERSONS 2/

The General Assembly,

Appreciating the contribution that older persons make to their societies,

Recognizing that, in the Charter of the United Nations, the peoples of the United Nations declare, inter alia, their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Noting the elaboration of those rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 4/ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 4/ and other declarations to ensure the application of universal standards to particular groups,

In pursuance of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the World Assembly on Ageing and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982,

Appreciating the tremendous diversity in the situation of older persons, not only between countries but within countries and between individuals, which requires a variety of policy responses,

Aware that in all countries, individuals are reaching an advanced age in greater numbers and in better health than ever before,

Aware of the scientific research disproving many stereotypes about inevitable and irreversible declines with age,

Convinced that in a world characterized by an increasing number and proportion of older persons, opportunities must be provided for willing and capable older persons to participate in and contribute to the ongoing activities of society,

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2/ Based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing; see Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

3/ Resolution 217 A (III).

4/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI).

Mindful that because of the strains on family life in both developed and developing countries support is required for those providing care to frail older persons,

Bearing in mind the standards already set by the International Plan of Action on Ageing and the conventions, recommendations and resolutions of the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities,

Encourages Governments to incorporate the following principles into their national programmes whenever possible:

Independence

1. Older persons should have access to adequate food, water, shelter, clothing and health care through the provision of income, family and community support and self-help.

2. Older persons should have the opportunity to work or to have access to other income-generating opportunities.

3. Older persons should be able to participate in determining when and at what pace withdrawal from the labour force takes place.

4. Older persons should have access to appropriate educational and training programmes.

5. Older persons should be able to live in an environment that is safe and adaptable to personal preferences and changing capacities.

6. Older persons should be able to reside at home for as long as possible.

Participation

7. Older persons should remain integrated in society, participate actively in the formulation and implementation of policies that directly affect their well-being and share their knowledge and skills with younger generations.

8. Older persons should be able to seek and develop opportunities for service to the community and to serve as volunteers in positions appropriate to their interests and capabilities.

9. Older persons should be able to form movements or associations of older persons.

Care

10. Older persons should benefit from family and community care and protection in accordance with each society's system of cultural values.

11. Older persons should have access to health care to help them to maintain or regain the optimum level of physical, mental and emotional well-being and to prevent or delay the onset of illness.

12. Older persons should have access to social and legal services to enhance their autonomy, protection and care.

13. Older persons should be able to utilize appropriate levels of institutional care providing protection, rehabilitation and social and mental stimulation in a humane and secure environment.

14. Older persons should be able to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms when residing in any shelter, care or treatment facility, including full respect for their dignity, beliefs, needs and privacy and for the right to make decisions about their care and the quality of their lives.

Self-fulfilment

15. Older persons should be able to pursue opportunities for the full development of their potential.

16. Older persons should have access to the educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources of society.

Dignity

17. Older persons should be able to live in dignity and security and be free of exploitation and physical or mental abuse.

18. Older persons should be treated fairly regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability or other status, and be valued independently of their economic contribution.